



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2008

**MAYOR JERRY SANDERS  
NEWS RELEASE**

**Public Responding to Calls for Water Conservation:  
Residential Usage Down 17 Percent**

San Diegans are responding to the calls for water conservation. For months, Mayor Jerry Sanders has raised awareness of the need for heightened voluntary water conservation in response to potential supply reductions and a historically dry year. Since October 2007, San Diego businesses and residences have reduced water consumption by more than 5,800 acre feet from historic average. Residential water consumption for February was down 17 percent from the prior year and commercial irrigation account usage was down more than 30 percent.

The Mayor is continuing to urge San Diegans to keep up the good work, even with the warmer spring and summer months on the horizon. The Mayor has partnered with the County Water Authority to promote the region-wide “20 Gallon Challenge,” asking the public to save 20 gallons a day. The Mayor will continue to promote water conservation as everyone San Diegan’s responsibility.

**SANDERS HAS STRONG RECORD OF FIGHTING FOR RELIABLE WATER SUPPLIES**

Beyond his aggressive conservation efforts, assuring our region’s water reliability from existing sources and/or new and diverse sources of water has been a key priority for the Mayor.

Earlier this year, the Mayor called for a State Water Bond and consequently convened Southern California mayors as well as the mayors from the state’s 10 largest cities. The Mayor has proposed tying together four major regional reservoirs so that we can significantly increase our local storage capacity and have greater flexibility in utilizing water resources in times of drought.

Sanders will also continue exploring diverse and affordable new sources of water. Last year, the Mayor successfully pushed for passage of the Carlsbad Desalination project and appeared before the State Lands Commission and the Coastal Commission.